

Ripon and Pateley Bridge Rural  
District Council.

---

WEST RIDING COUNTY COUNCIL.

---

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1945



Ripon and Pateley Bridge Rural  
District Council.

---

WEST RIDING COUNTY COUNCIL.

---

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

**YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1945**

RIPON AND PATELEY BRIDGE RURAL  
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

---

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1945.**

---

**PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL  
AUTHORITY.**

*Medical Officers of Health :*

CHARLES ASHLEY FLINTOFF, L.R.C.P. (Lond.) M.R.C.S.  
(Eng.)

WILLIAM SAMUEL WATERHOUSE, M.B., Ch.B.

---

*Chief Sanitary Inspector :*

JOHN KENNERLY WALTON, Cert. R.S.I., M.S.I.A.  
Diploma of the Royal Sanitary Institute for Inspector  
of Nuisances (1920) and Inspector of Meat and Other  
Foods (1920).

---

*Additional Sanitary Inspectors :*

\*WALLACE TODD BECKWITH, Cert. S.I.B., A.R. San. I.,  
M.S.I.A.

Diploma of R.S.I. and S.I.J.E.B. Sanitary Inspector.  
Diploma of R.S.I. Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

WILLIAM ERIC WIGGLESWORTH, Cert. S.I.B., A.R. San. I.,  
M.S.I.A.

Diploma of R.S.I. and S.I.J.E.B. Sanitary Inspector.

FRANCIS JOSEPH THOMPSON, Cert. S.I.B., M.R. San. I.,  
M.S.I.A.

Diploma of R.S.I. and S.I.J.E.B. Sanitary Inspector  
(1930).

Diploma of R.S.I. Inspector of Meat and Other Foods  
(1940).

*\*On active service with His Majesty's Forces overseas.*

Mill House,

PATELEY BRIDGE,

31st December, 1945.

To the Chairman and Members of the Ripon and  
Pateley Bridge Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my annual Report upon the health of your District for the year 1945. Despite the fact that we have lived under adverse conditions for the past six years the health of the people has been better maintained than could have been expected. True, many are somewhat tired. The daily round has grown progressively heavier as those who were fit for war duties went, leaving their work to be shared by those who remained. The monotonous food and drink have by no means stimulated the zest for work and the clothing position has not added to the change and brightness we were accustomed to in times of greater plenty. Still, the fact remains that good health has so far been maintained, that no epidemic of disease has occurred in this District, and with the cessation of hostilities we are able to look forward to a general if gradual improvement in conditions of life.

One of the bright spots in the situation is that the standard of health of school children appears to have improved rather than otherwise. The provision of cod liver oil, fruit juices and extra milk for the juveniles has had good effect and it may be all to the good that the low quality sweets and confectionery which many children ate before the war have disappeared. It is hoped that before this type of food returns to the market legislation will have provided for a reasonable standard of food value and suitability for the infant stomach. In this connection ice cream may be mentioned. Properly made of wholesome materials ice cream is very pleasant and of some food value, but with the shortage of milk and fats the ice cream now offered for sale is usually of little if any food value and may even be harmful.

There is no doubt that people are becoming aware that it is better to keep in good health than to be cured of an ailment. This is evidenced by the number of enquiries made of the Department. Mothers are keen to keep their children away from infection (they no longer put the measles cases to sleep with healthy children "because they have to have it and may as well get it over") and it has been noted that where people have taken possession of a house they are keen enquirers as to the health of the late occupants and anxious to have the place disinfected if there is any doubt. This is all to the good and it is gratifying to see that the health instructions given in the past years are now being generally acted upon.

I know that both the Council and the people of this District will welcome the keenness of the Government to provide good homes, whether it is by reconditioning existing houses or by the building of new ones. I consider that housing is one of the most important factors in health. If our people are overcrowded, short of light and ventilation, or compelled to live in conditions of dampness we shall never get an AI population. Not only is their physical health impaired by bad conditions but their whole outlook and mentality. We know that in the past juvenile delinquents have almost always come from areas in which housing conditions were bad. It is therefore up to us to see that good environment has its opportunity to have effect.

I am pleased to welcome Mr. W. E. Wigglesworth, Housing Inspector, back to duty after six years of service in the Royal Air Force, most of it spent abroad. His assistance in the department will be of great value for the Officers who have carried on during the war are overworked and burdened with multifarious duties not usually associated with their normal work and, with the survey of the houses in the District before him, Mr. Wigglesworth will find plenty to do.

In November last the District suffered a great loss by the death of Dr. W. S. Waterhouse who had served the Ripon Rural Council as Medical Officer of Health since 1915, and continued with the Ripon and Pateley Bridge

Rural District Council at the amalgamation in 1937. Dr. Waterhouse was in all ways an excellent colleague and was highly respected by all who knew him. The District will be very much poorer on account of his passing.

### HOUSING.

There is very little change to report on the housing position. No new houses have been built as yet, although preparations are going ahead. Potential sites are being viewed but with so many interested Ministries and Departments to satisfy it is difficult to fix upon a place that has the approbation of the Officers of Health, Agriculture, Planning (Local and Regional), County Highways and Transport.

The survey of rural houses as recommended by the Committee headed by Sir Arthur Hobhouse is proceeding, and from reports to hand up to date it would appear that, apart from repairs which have been postponed during the war years, housing conditions though not entirely satisfactory, are not as bad as had been anticipated. As there were many houses due for demolition at the outbreak of war which are now occupied, the number of "D" houses in some villages appears large, but very few houses are placed in the lower categories in those areas which had been inspected in the years 1938-9. About one third of the District has been surveyed and every house visited is recorded together with particulars of category. In all cases where a house is placed in a low category a more thorough inspection is made and all defects noted. When occasion demands the necessary notices requiring repairs are sent out. Owners are finding still greater difficulties in effecting repairs. The materials situation is not at all good and only the minimum repairs necessary to keep the houses fit for habitation are able to be carried out. It is expected that this condition will prevail for some time as with the assembly of material for the building of new houses the scarcity is likely to be accentuated.

### OVERCROWDING.

The position as regards overcrowding has varied but little. If anything it has slightly deteriorated. This is due to the return of people from the Forces. Most cases



investigated show that where it had been possible to house a daughter, even with children, the additional accommodation required by the return of the husband often dislocated the family arrangements and caused overcrowding. It is desirable for each family to have its own house and to this end the Department has taken full advantage of the power of requisitioning. Many families have been found accommodation which will tide them over until new houses are available.

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

*Laboratory Facilities.*—The Public Health Department of the West Riding County Council have adequate laboratory facilities which are always available.

### *Ambulance Facilities.*—

- (1) Infectious cases. A motor ambulance is provided.
- (2) Non-infectious cases. Motor ambulances are available.

*Mortuaries.*—The Mortuary at Pateley Bridge is a recent construction and comprises a waiting room, a reception room and a room adequately equipped for post mortem examination.

Arrangements have been made with the Ripon City Council for the use of their mortuary in Skell Bank for cases which occur in the north eastern portion of the district.

*Treatment Centres and Clinics.* — Those available for the District are situated in Harrogate and Ripon, and cases are directed appropriately.

### *Hospitals.*—Public and Voluntary.

- (1) Ripon and District Cottage Hospital.
- (2) Ripon Welfare Institution Hospital.
- (3) Harrogate General Infirmary.



## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

In comparison with most rural areas it will be seen that the sanitary circumstances of this area are fairly good. Most villages are drained and, where the water supplies and sewage disposal are sufficient, advantage has been taken of the services by property owners. Many improvements, however, should be made when the regional water supply becomes an accomplished fact. In some cases improvements to sewers and disposal works will be necessary when water is laid on. The villages of Darley, Burnt Yates, Bishop Thornton, Sawley, North Stainley and Mickley all require both services. The existing services have been well maintained. In some villages difficulty has been experienced in the cleansing of privies. Those people formerly doing this unpleasant job have found more congenial and remunerative occupations. The acceptance or otherwise by farmers of privy contents is often decided by the composition, as bottles, tins and broken crockery make neither good manure nor help in the easy working of the land.

### WATER.

Though there are water supplies of good quality to most parts of the District they are not such as will supply the whole of the population, particularly at the higher levels. As the demand for water is growing and the recent Water Acts place obligations upon Local Authorities to provide adequate pure water, proceedings are being taken to ensure this. Consulting engineers have been employed to prepare a scheme for supplying water throughout the area. This work is going on well and it is hoped that the scheme will shortly be placed before the Minister of Health. The District is fortunate that it has passing within its boundaries the trunk mains of Leeds, Harrogate, Bradford and Ripon, from either of which it may be possible to arrange to take supplies.

Forty-eight samples of water have been submitted for bacteriological examination and no reports were unsatisfactory.

The waters distributed by the Council are very varied but none are plumbo-solvent. When it was possible to have chemical analyses made, tests for plumbo-solvency

were made when the lack of hardness demonstrated its possibility. Regular examinations of the waters have been made for many years and the reports inspected by the Ministry of Health Officers and found satisfactory.

Number of houses in the District having piped water supplies from public water mains	...	1066
Number of population so supplied	... ..	4797
Number of houses supplied by standpipes	...	61
Number of population so supplied	... ..	275

The following is a report made to me by the Chief Sanitary Inspector on the sewerage of the District.

*Aldfield.*

A sewer runs through the village to a small Sewage Disposal Works consisting of a sedimentation tank and filter which is adequate for the present number of houses. The effluent discharges into a small stream in Spa Gill Wood which eventually joins the River Skell.

*Azerley.*

This hamlet comprises only the Chase and a few farms each of which has its own drainage system.

*Galphay.*

The sewer in this village is by no means a good one. It discharges into a stream at the entrance to the village in Galphay Lane. There is no disposal works. A new sewer throughout the village and a disposal works is required. A scheme for a disposal works was prepared prior to sewage disposal being made a general charge on the District, but was postponed on account of the cost.

*Mickley.*

There is no proper sewer in this village. Most of the house drainage is to septic tanks and cesspools. At the west end of the village there is a drain taking various drainage and discharging eventually into the River Ure. A new scheme for sewerage was prepared for this village but the cost was prohibitive as the hamlets of Galphay and Mickley were both in the parish of Azerley.

*Bewerley.*

This village is sewered to the Pateley Bridge main discharging to the Sewage Disposal Works at Glasshouses.

### *Greenhow.*

The village of Greenhow is in the Parish of Bewerley. It is somewhat scattered and has no public sewer.

### *Birstwith.*

There is no public sewer in this village. Disposal of drainage is effected by means of septic tanks.

### *Bishop Monkton.*

This village is sewered throughout and has a sprinkler system of disposal works with the effluent discharging to a stream which eventually joins the River Ure.

### *Bishop Thornton.*

There is no sewer in Bishop Thornton village. In the village of Shaw Mills which is the most populous part of the parish there is a small Sewage Disposal Works with a sprinkler filter. The effluent discharges into a stream which later joins the River Nidd.

### *Bridge Hewick.*

This parish consists of a few farms and farm workers' cottages. Some of the properties join the Copt Hewick sewer.

### *Clint.*

The drainage of the Burnt Yates portion of this parish is collected by a drain which discharges on to land on the slope towards Shaw Mills. The village requires properly sewerage and providing with a disposal works.

The portion of the parish from the fork of the road to Birstwith to the District boundary also requires sewerage.

### *Clotherholme.*

The most populous portion of this parish is in the Lark Hill area near to the City of Ripon boundary. It is served by a very good sewer laid during the 1914-1918 war and taken over from the War Department. The disposal is by two small sedimentation tanks from which the effluent runs on to land areas and thence to the banks of the River Laver. It is not a very efficient disposal works. The tanks were originally part of a fish hatchery and were converted to sedimentation tanks and the land areas are of insufficient size.

### *Copt Hewick.*

The drainage of the major portion of the parish of Copt Hewick passes into an old sewer which appears to have been constructed for both land and house drainage and which passes through part of the parish of Bridge Hewick, discharging on the north-east side of Hewick Bridge. A new sewer and a disposal works is required for this village. There is a possibility of a joint scheme for Copt Hewick and Sharow. A scheme was being prepared at the time of the outbreak of war but was not proceeded with.

### *Dacre.*

Here the village is sewered along with a portion of the parish of Hartwith to a Sewage Disposal Works at Dacre. The works are comprised of sedimentation tanks and sprinklers. The size of these works is such that they are only just capable of dealing with the amount of sewage received even when maintained at the greatest possible efficiency. The portion known as Dacre Top is not sewered.

### *Eavestone.*

This parish is composed mainly of agricultural holdings. It is very scattered and has no public sewer.

### *Fountains Earth.*

The village of Lofthouse is the most populous part of the parish. It is a compact village on the side and at the foot of a hill. It is sewered and has a small disposal works with a sprinkler filter which is just capable of dealing efficiently with the present drainage.

### *Givendale.*

This parish has no village and the farms have their own drainage systems.

### *Grantley.*

There is no public sewer in the village of Grantley. Sewage disposal is effected by means of septic tanks.

### *Grewelthorpe.*

The village of Grewelthorpe is sewered throughout and has two disposal works, the larger being at the south end of the village. These works are quite capable of dealing with the amount of sewage produced at present.

*Hartwith-cum-Winsley.*

The most populous part of the parish is known as Summerbridge. It is sewered and discharges at Dacre.

*High and Low Bishopside.*

*Pateley Bridge.*

The town of Pateley Bridge is sewered and along with the sewage of Bewerley and Glasshouses, treatment is given at a new disposal works on the banks of the River Nidd below Glasshouses.

*Glasshouses.*

This village is linked with Pateley Bridge for sewage disposal purposes.

*Wath.*

This is a small village in the dale above Pateley Bridge. It is drained and sewered to a Sewage Disposal Works constructed in 1936 with sprinkler filters.

*Kirkby Malzeard.*

This village is sewered throughout and the sewage is treated by sedimentation and land filtration in a works about a mile from the village on land near the Kex Beck.

*Laverton.*

This village is badly drained. There is an old drain collecting a portion of the drainage of the village which eventually reaches the River Laver ; there is no treatment. The village requires to be sewered and a disposal works provided.

*Lindrick with Studley Royal and Fountains.*

There is no defined village in this parish. The drainage of Studley Royal is dealt with by septic tanks treatment as is also the property in the area near and including Fountains Hall. The effluent eventually is discharged into the River Skell.

*Littlethorpe.*

There is no public sewer for any part of Littlethorpe. Most of the houses are drained to septic tanks, the effluent going either to the land, to St. Helen's Gutter or to the canal. Littlethorpe is a large and scattered parish and is divided by the Ripon-Harrogate road. The village lies to the east of this road, to the west there are only farms.



### *Markenfield Hall.*

This parish comprises the Hall and several agricultural cottages. It has its own private drainage system which is satisfactory.

### *Markington with Wallerthwaite.*

A sewer runs throughout the village of Markington and terminates in a disposal works on the bank of the stream below Ingerthorpe. Disposal is by means of sedimentation and land filtration. There is no sewer to take the drainage of the hamlet of Ingerthorpe and as this hamlet is now supplied with pressure water from the new Markington supply a sewer would be a great advantage. There is a sewer and a small disposal works which serves the houses on the south side of Dove Bank. The properties comprising the Rose and Crown Hotel, the Stationmaster's house and railway station and about another dozen dwellings depend upon cesspools for disposing of their drainage. This is unsatisfactory and a small sewage disposal works is desirable.

### *Menwith-with-Darley.*

This is a long straggling parish. The village has no public sewer. It would be difficult on account of contours to deal with the drainage as a whole, but improvement is certainly necessary as undoubtedly much of the drainage of the village finds its way into the stream or the River Nidd.

### *Newby-with-Mulwith.*

This parish is comprised of Newby Hall and adjacent farms. It has its own sewage disposal system.

### *North Stainley and Sleningford.*

There is an old sewer running through this village which was evidently laid to take house drainage. It is in part unjointed and laid in or above an old Roman drain. It terminates in a tank but owing to the amount of top water taken by the sewer it is often washed out in winter time. A new sewer and sewage disposal works would greatly improve the position.

### *Nunwick-cum-Howgrave.*

This is an agricultural parish with no village and consists of only a few farms. It is not sewered.

### *Sawley.*

There is no proper sewer in the village of Sawley. A system of very old drains running into tanks and thence to the stream comprises the drainage of the village. In some parts the drains open into ditches and run open through fields back into drains again. The village requires a sewer and sewage disposal works.

### *Sharow.*

The sewer at Sharow is a very old one. There were no inspection chambers on the length down the village street until about six years ago when it was opened at the bottom of the village and a chamber constructed where the overflow from one of the village water supplies discharges into it. It flows through a small catch pit and thence into the River Ure.

### *Skelding.*

This is an agricultural parish where each property deals with its own drainage.

### *Skelton.*

There is a sewer throughout the village of Skelton which discharges into a disposal works consisting of a sedimentation tank and land areas. These areas have a clay sub-soil and do not allow of a great deal of filtration. The effluent is discharged into a gutter which joins the River Ure.

### *Stonebeck Down.*

The village here is Ramsgill. It has no proper sewer or disposal works, the drainage being discharged into the stream which is a tributary of the River Nidd.

### *Stonebeck Up.*

The village of Middlesmoor is sewered to a disposal works on the hillside below the village which is sufficient for the present flow of sewage. It is not expected that there will be a large increase in the number of houses in this village.

### *Studley Roger.*

The drainage of this village is at present maintained by the Aldfield Estate Company. It is not a modern system and it discharges on to land between the village and the River Skell. It could with great advantage be properly sewered and a disposal works provided.



### *Sutton Grange.*

This is a small parish comprising a few farms and farm workers' cottages. The properties deal with their own drainage.

### *Thornthwaite with Padside.*

This is a scattered agricultural parish. It is not sewered.

### *Thruscross.*

This is a scattered agricultural parish. It is not sewered.

### *Warsill.*

This is a scattered parish. It is not sewered.

### *Winksley.*

The village of Winksley has no proper sewer. Its drainage goes eventually towards the River Laver. It is a small compact village and should be dealt with fairly easily.

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The collection of refuse is let by contract to two transport contractors. The continuous change of workmen due to the call-up for Military Service has occasioned some complaints until the men have learned the collection round. Apart from this all has gone on satisfactorily. The tips are dressed by the Council's workmen. Some are partially on the "controlled" system and others are depressions known locally as "swallow holes" which are of great size and despite many years of use are by no means full. The collection of household refuse is confined to the more populous parts of the District.

## RIVERS AND STREAMS.

There has been no noticeable pollution of rivers and streams in 1945. The Public Health Officers work in co-operation with those of the West Riding Rivers Board.

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There are but few cases where closets are jointly used. Generally the number of closets is adequate, but there are still more privies and pails than is desirable. This will, no doubt, be altered when a full water supply is available.

## VENEREAL DISEASES.

No action has been necessary in 1945.

## IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

This has been a great success in your District, and parents have co-operated in making the scheme a success. Publicity has been given to the essentiality for immunisation by the County Education Department, by our own Health Department and by Nurses and Teachers. With the few exceptions of children coming in from outside areas almost all the school and many younger children are immunised.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There has been very little infectious disease in the District in 1945. There has been nothing to call an epidemic and, although with modern travel and the wartime movement of population it is extremely difficult to trace the origins of cases, it has usually been agreed after investigation that the cases have been brought in by persons from outside the District.

There are good facilities for the disinfection of clothing, etc., at the Joint Infectious Diseases Hospital.

## SCABIES.

Apart from an occasional imported case, scabies in this District is unknown.

## SHOPS.

Pateley Bridge is the only centre where there is a number of shops. They comprise grocers, bakehouses, cafes, chemists, footwear, florists, greengrocers, tobacconists, furniture and general stores. Conditions are quite reasonable and there has been nothing upon which I found it necessary to report.

## SCHOOLS.

Many of the schools are due for improvement. Although materials and labour are scarce, enough should be available now to provide at least modern sanitation to all schools, together with proper water supplies which would assist the teachers in training our children in cleanliness and personal hygiene. It is most important that children should be given as good environmental conditions as is possible.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### *Milk Supply.*

Apart from the usual change of tenancy of some milk farms with the accompanying variation in numbers of milch cows kept there is little to report with regard to the milk supply. There were no long periods of hot weather and complaints as to the poor keeping quality of milk were very few. The activities of the County Dairy Advisory Officers have had good effects generally. Many farms could well do with a better supply of water for milk cooling and this has been made available where possible from the Council's mains.

### MEAT AND FOODS.

There has been very little food condemned as unsound during the year. It has been principally "blown" cans of milk, soup or vegetables, with a few pieces of shoulder bacon maggoted or gone sour. All food suitable for that purpose was sent for salvage.

### RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

Although the activities of the Council's "Pied Piper" in the District are well known we are still a long way from having caught or poisoned the last rat. As the seasons move around the rats move too, and reports of rats in the tips adjacent to where corn has been threshed or potatoes moved are constant and regular. They are dealt with as regularly. The courses upon modern methods of rat destruction given by the Ministry of Food have been attended by your officers who work in co-operation with other Rodent Officers wherever possible.

---

In conclusion I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Council for their support throughout the exacting years of the war and also the Officers for their loyalty and their unselfish devotion to duty which has enabled me to accomplish what has many times seemed an almost impossible task.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C. A. FLINTOFF,

Medical Officer of Health.



